



Pilot Satellite

Broadband Cost-share Program

(The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board will consider including this program in the Technology Model Program for 2007.)

High-speed Internet (commonly referred to as broadband) allows for growing innovation in agriculture, simplifying and mainstreaming important daily tasks, and developing marketing and sales opportunities. With broadband, farmers can remain up-to-date with everything from the weather to the temperature and humidity of remote livestock facilities equipped with temperature-sensitive monitors. Farmers can access market prices and gain access to the information about the latest in management techniques and equipment. Farmers can advertise and even sell goods on the Internet, generating customers from all over the world. Internet resources can give Kentucky farmers the edge to remain competitive and profitable in today's changing agricultural economy. The possibilities are virtually endless.

In 2005, a United States Department of Agriculture study showed that fewer Kentucky farmers have access to the Internet (30 percent) compared to farmers in all other states. Governor Fletcher's *Prescription for Innovation* calls for broadband availability for all Kentuckians by 2007. Nevertheless, for many farm families, DSL (digital subscriber line), cable or wireless broadband services are not available.

Therefore, the following guidelines and recommendations have been developed by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy for the establishment of a *Pilot Satellite Broadband Cost-Share Program* through a local administrative agency, using County Agricultural Development Funds. We believe this program can greatly benefit those producers who wish to gain access to high-speed Internet service, but because of infrastructure costs, may not have access in the near future.

This document is intended to provide a summary of program goals, eligible investments, and implementation guidelines for agencies seeking to initiate a local program. Guidelines are considered to be suggested minimum standards by which a program is to be implemented.

If your County is interested in implementing this pilot program, then please contact your Area Project Analyst at the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627, and we will provide you with a complete set of guidelines. Applications for funds must be directed through the local County Agricultural Development Council(s) on a model project application, which will be treated as a non-model project in the application process.

I. Program Goals

The goals of the program include:

- Improve net farm income through cost-share for establishing satellite broadband service that will improve farm operation efficiency and marketing for producers unable to access broadband service.
- Impact a high number of tobacco dependant producers affected by loss of income resulting from cuts in tobacco production.
- Encourage the use of broadband Internet service to assist producers in research and science-based decisions for the management and expansion of technology-based initiatives in their farming operations.
- Assist tobacco dependant producers interested in gaining the speed broadband Internet service provides.
- To increase the percentage of Kentucky farmers with Internet access.

II. Eligible Investment Areas

- A. 50% of the cost of equipment and installation provided by a satellite broadband provider not to exceed \$250.00 per producer.
- B. 50% of the cost of satellite broadband service for a period of one year not to exceed \$40.00 per month (\$480.00 for the one year) per producer.

III. Eligible Requirements

Participating producers shall be tobacco dependant with one of the following as documented proof: evidence of a past Phase II payment; evidence of enrollment in the Tobacco Transition Payment Program; or an executed current marketing contract for tobacco production.